

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A catheter comprising  
a catheter shaft including a proximal end and a distal end having preferably  
5 secured thereto a balloon, and  
a fitting, preferably a luer fitting, arranged at the proximal end of the catheter  
shaft,  
the proximal end of the catheter shaft being provided with a bending section.
- 10 2. The catheter according to claim 1, wherein  
the bending section has a flexibility greater than that of the section of the  
catheter shaft joining the proximal end.
3. The catheter according to claim 1, wherein  
15 the bending section has a spiral cut into the proximal end of the catheter shaft.
4. The catheter according to claim 1, wherein  
the bending section is formed by a plurality of offset cuts.
- 20 5. The catheter according to claim 4, wherein  
the bending section is provided with a seal.
6. The catheter according to claim 3, wherein  
the bending section is provided with a seal.  
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7. The catheter according to claim 3, wherein  
the seal is designed as a sleeve or tube which is fastened, preferably by an  
adhesive, to the proximal end of the catheter shaft.
- 30 8. The catheter according to claim 4, wherein  
the seal is designed as a sleeve or tube which is fastened, preferably by an  
adhesive, to the proximal end of the catheter shaft.

9. The catheter according to claim 1, wherein  
the bending section is formed as a soft-annealed material section of the  
catheter shaft.
- 5 10. The catheter according to claim 9, wherein  
the soft-annealed section is surrounded by a spiral spring.
11. The catheter according to claim 1, wherein  
the bending section is formed by a transition member of the fitting which  
10 consists of a flexible plastic material.
12. The catheter according to claim 11, wherein  
the transition member has an undercut which is engaged by a complementary  
holding member of the proximal end of the catheter shaft.  
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13. The catheter according to claim 1, wherein  
the bending section comprises a plurality of balls mounted on the proximal  
end of the catheter shaft.
- 20 14. The catheter according to claim 1, wherein  
the bending section is designed as a flexible spring, preferably a spiral spring,  
which is fastened to the proximal end of the catheter shaft and mounted on the fitting.